

REMARKS

This amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed June 16, 2004 (herein "Office Action"). Claims 1-44 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, those claims were subjected to a two-way restriction requirement. In particular, Claims 1-26 and 37-44 were identified as Group I and Claims 27-36 were identified as Group II.

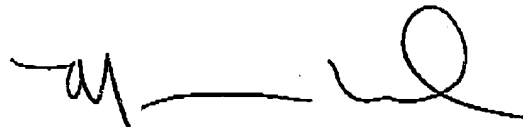
In response to the restriction requirement, applicant elects Group I, Claims 1-26 and 37-44 for consideration. Applicant has withdrawn Claims 27-36 from the present application, without prejudice.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above, applicant elects Group I (Claims 1-26 and 37-44). Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the elected claims. If any questions remain, applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR  
JOHNSON KINDNESS<sup>PLLC</sup>



Mauricio A. Uribe  
Registration No. 46,206  
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1728

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Group Art Unit 2621, Examiner Daniel G. Marian, at facsimile number 703.872.9306, on September 14, 2004.

Date: September 14, 2004



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LAW OFFICES OF  
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS<sup>PLLC</sup>  
1420 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 2800  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
206.682.8100